



CITY OF DULUTH NEWS RELEASE

City of Duluth
Contact: Amanda Leiba
3167 Main Street
Duluth, GA 30096
Phone: (678) 957-7271
aleiba@duluthga.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Duluth Art Week lets loose with Aurora Theatre's *Memphis*, May 14

Award-winning musical to be on Duluth Town Green

Duluth, Ga. (April 18, 2016) – Aurora Theatre returns to the place where it all started for a one-night-only performance of the hit show ***Memphis***, a co-production with Theatrical Outfit, on **Saturday, May 14 at 7 p.m.**

"We are just thrilled to have the Aurora Theatre back in Duluth," said event coordinator Maggie Waddell. "We wanted to provide a different aspect of the ARTS and I think we nailed it on theatrics."

Loosely based on real-life rock 'n' roll pioneer Dewey Phillips, ***Memphis*** follows the story of quirky and irreverent DJ Huey Calhoun and his transformation of the iconic sound from the radio to the TV. Breaking racial barriers along his journey, he falls in love with a soulful black singer and a cultural revolution is ignited! The musical is the wrap event of an eight-day concentration of the arts which consists of colorful tree wrappings, tweet & seek, dance, theater, music, Eat Like A Local, geocaching art scavenger hunts and digital art!

"An award-winning musical like *Memphis* was an unparalleled experience of fierce emotion, dynamic theatrics and the ability for audiences to immerse themselves in the story and characters," said Aurora Theatre's Producing Artistic Director Anthony Rodriguez. "This hot show combined with Duluth's incredible outdoor amphitheater will make this an unforgettable night!"

Memphis boasts an original score by Bon Jovi's founding member and keyboardist David Bryan with the book and lyrics by three-time Tony Award-winner Joe DiPietro. Last fall's award-winning local production was originally directed in 2015 by Theatrical Outfit's Artistic Director Tom Key with musical direction by Aurora Theatre Co-Founder and Associate Producer Ann-Carol Pence. Choreography was provided by Waverly Lucas, Artistic Director of Ballethnic Dance Company. Led by Suzi Award Winner Travis Smith, the company of 25 of Atlanta's best performers will reprise their roles. Winner of four 2010

Tony Awards including Best Musical, this story of passion, determination and sacrifice presents a moving musical for all to cheer for, no matter the age.

The show is free to the public; however VIP tables are available for purchase. The VIP tables range from \$200 - \$450 for four to eight chairs. A family-style dinner from Dreamland BBQ is included in the price. For more information on this event, contact Maggie Waddell at mwaddell@duluthga.net. To purchase a table, please visit www.duluthga.net/artweek.

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Under the artistic leadership of Co-Founders and Artistic Directors Anthony Rodriguez and Ann-Carol Pence, now in its 20th Season, Aurora Theatre produces professional live entertainment to suit everyone's taste. Aurora Theatre is home to over 600 events each year. Two series of theatrical productions, the Peach State Federal Credit Union Signature Series and the GGC Harvel Lab Series, are comprised of the biggest Broadway plays and musicals alongside exciting contemporary theatre. Additionally, Aurora produces concerts, stand-up comedy, children's programs, metro Atlanta's top haunted attraction Lawrenceville Ghost Tours, as well as Atlanta's only professional Spanish language theatre, Teatro Aurora. Aurora Theatre is a world class theatrical facility with two performance venues. Nestled on the square in historic downtown Lawrenceville, Aurora has FREE attached covered parking and is surrounded by restaurants and shops. Aurora Theatre has garnered numerous accolades highlighted by recent achievements that include winner of five 2015 Suzi Bass Awards, Creative Loafing's "2010 Best Theatre Company," Georgia Trend Magazine's "2011 Best Places to Work in Georgia," Atlanta Business Chronicle's "2012 Best Places to Work", Atlanta Magazine's "Best of Atlanta 2013", Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's 2014 President and CEO Award for Excellence in Arts, and Gwinnett Chamber's 2015 IMPACT Regional Business Award for Hospitality .